OZ

The inhabitants of the new world have long forgotten the notion of "pain."
GIVE IT BACK.
There are no such things as pain or death here in this world.
And yet...
Why did things turn out this way...
THAT'S MINE.

OZ
#01_GAIA
492840

CONTENTS

#01 GAIA 001

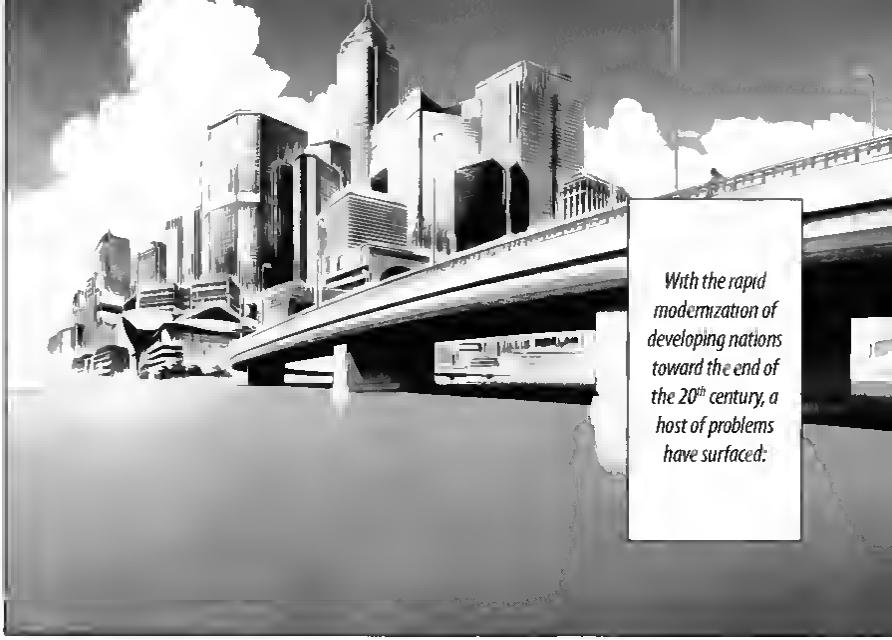
#02 Girl 087

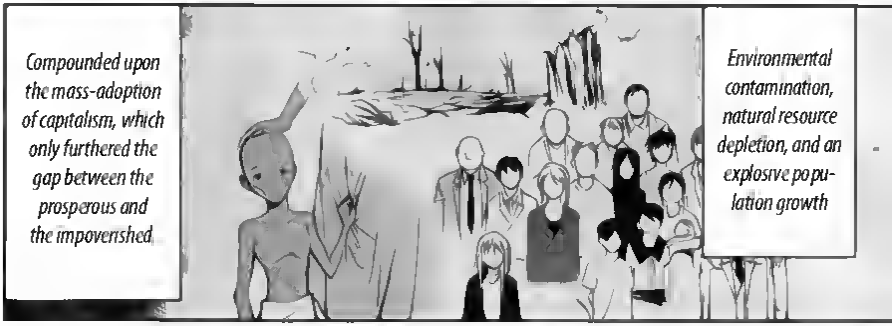
#03 Silver Shoes (1) 133

Up until this morning, it was like any other day.
Welcome to GAIA!

HMM?
しぉ
あ
ぃよ
ぁ
ぃ
uuu
...

Central City – Outskirts
Name : Oono Yuuri
Log in : 7:35 AM
中央市 郊外
name : 大野結利
log in
am 7:35
AH, SO THIS IS WHERE I LOGGED OUT LAST NIGHT...
BICYCLE.
program : bicycle
cost : 0 YEN
run
Must be something really wrong with me...
Sure, reluctant to go back to the real world and all, but to think that I would wander all the way out here by myself to kill time...
ガシ

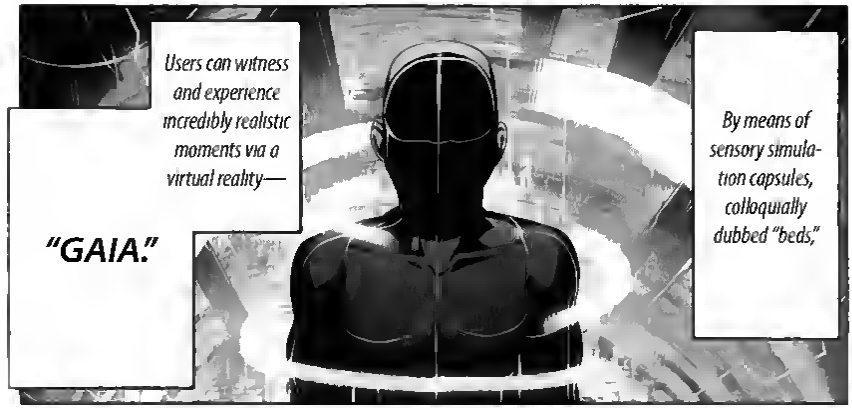

With the rapid modernization of developing nations toward the end of the 20th century, a host of problems have surfaced:


Compounded upon the mass-adoption of capitalism, which only furthered the gap between the prosperous and the impoverished
Environmental contamination, natural resource depletion, and an explosive population growth

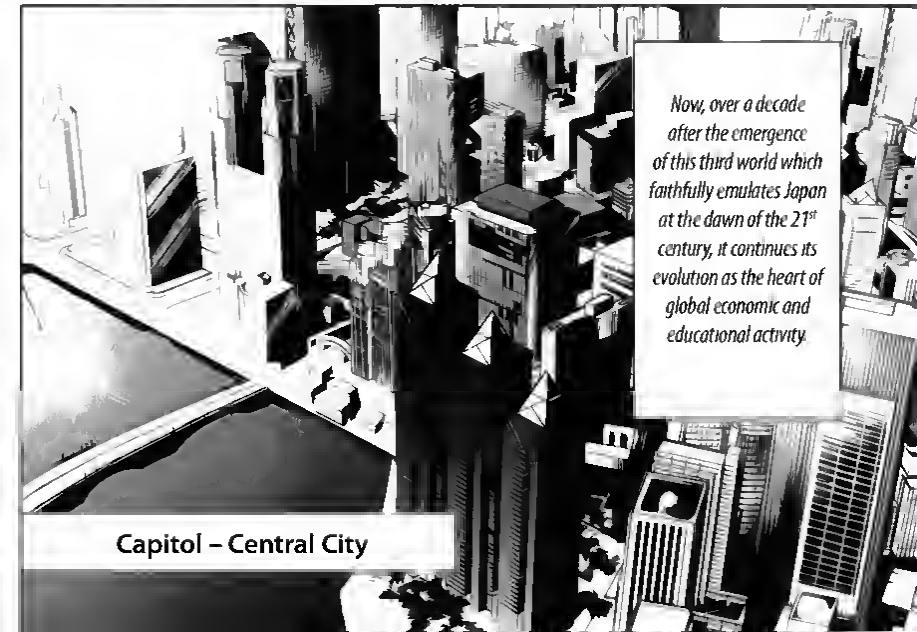
With no viable solution in sight, countries grew increasingly aggressive arguing over what's left of the remaining resources. But just as tensions peaked—
Efforts to expand to outer space were initially thought as the miracle fix, but all attempts at extraterrestrial resource extraction and colonization have yielded zero success.

GAIA PROJECT

Grand-scale Sensitive Electroreality


Users can witness and experience incredibly realistic moments via a virtual reality—
"GAIA."
By means of sensory simulation capsules, colloquially dubbed "beds,"

Then again... It's not like getting hit is that big of a deal...
Technically, it is neither on Earth nor in space, but an ultra-energy-efficient dimension in which we live through the exchange of electronic signals.

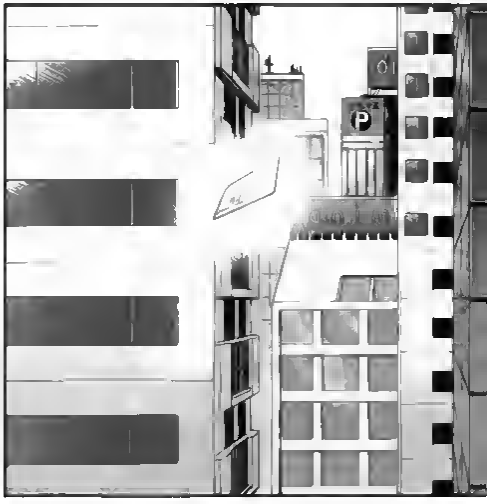

Now, over a decade after the emergence of this third world which faithfully emulates Japan at the dawn of the 21st century, it continues its evolution as the heart of global economic and educational activity.
Capitol – Central City

NO WAY! HOW IS THAT EVEN POSSIBLE?
LET'S SEE, TODAY'S CLASSES ARE...
REALLY?
YES. RIGHT...
UH, YES YES, WHEN WE MET THAT OTHER DAY...
EH? NO, THAT CAN'T BE.
I should have at least signed up for a graphics class... ...hm?
Picking memory-intensive courses for all my elective was definitely a bad idea...
WORLD HISTORY AND... SOFTWARE DESIGN THEORY?
HM...
in three days!
no new mail

WHAT IS THAT ...?

...?

WOBBLE WOBBLE
...A CARD?


P

AH-
WAHH !!!

!!!

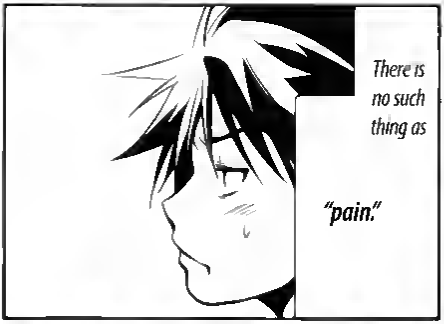
Central City
Central Pedestrian Scramble
E!?
C-C-C-
OH CRAP !!!

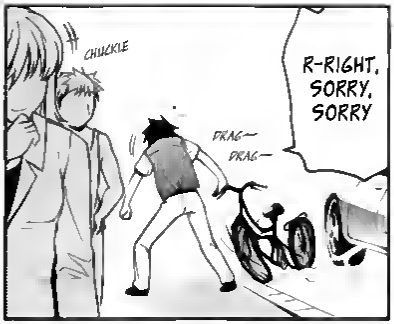
...WAY...
NO...

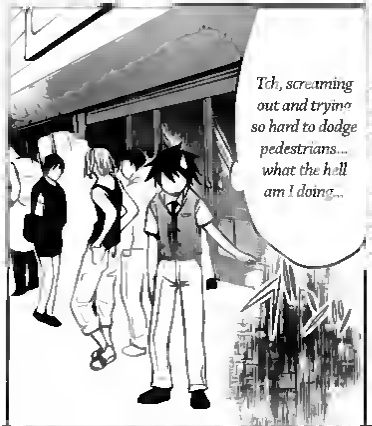
Gil
BAP!
KO—
Gil
Here in GAIA...
ざわ
ざわ

S-SORRY ABOUT THAT!
S'COOL.. BUT UH, COULD YOU GET OUT OF THE WAY?

ガバッ


There is no such thing as "pain."


CHUCKLE
R-RIGHT, SORRY, SORRY
DRAG—
DRAG—


Tch, screaming out and trying so hard to dodge pedestrians... what the hell am I doing...

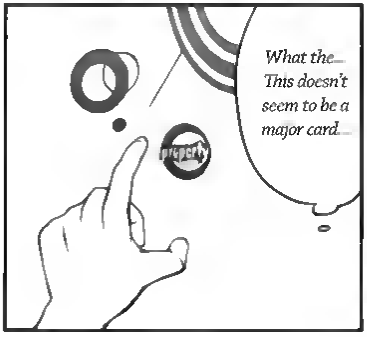
DESPAIR
program : bicycle
crash : 8295
view error details
DAMN IT...
LOOKS LIKE IT'S WAY BEYOND REPAIR...
AND IT WAS EXPENSIVE TOO.

Due to the possibility of pain leading to death, it has been deemed unnecessary and subsequently erased from this new world.
I really ought to kick this "bad habit" of mine
Preferably sooner rather than later...
Though GAIA recreates the five senses with stellar fidelity, "pain" was the only exception
Even if I crash into them, it's not like anyone is going to feel anything...
Hence, in this world,
People have forgotten about this thing called "pain."

And to think, after all this time, I still can't fully get used to living in GAIA...
There really must be something very wrong with me...

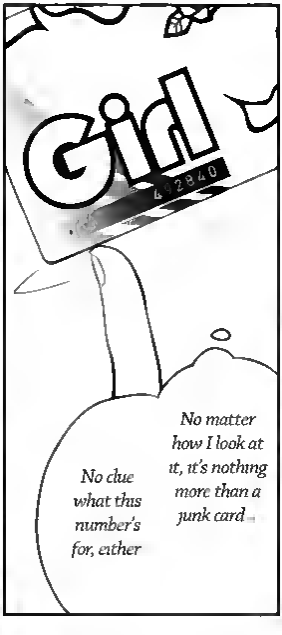
Where did this fall from anyway?

IN ANY CASE,
THIS LITTLE THING NEARLY COST ME MY LIFE...
WELL, NOT LIKE THAT COULD ACTUALLY HAPPEN, BUT STILL, HOW UN-LUCKY


What the... This doesn't seem to be a major card...

MENU, OPEN.

card type: Oz
card name: Girl

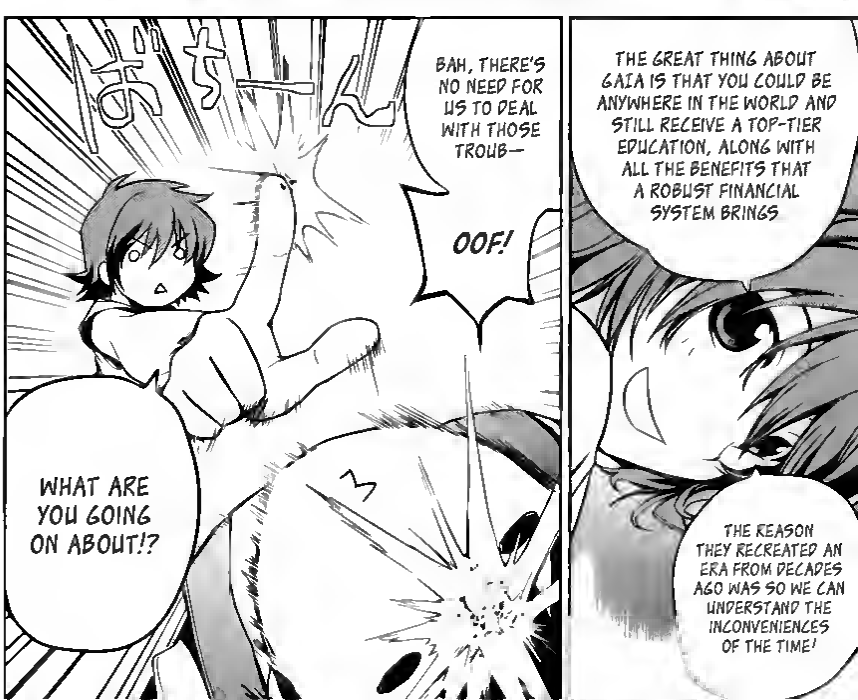


The account balance is empty, and there's no registration history. Should I just give it to the police?
Never heard of it... Maybe it's just a junk card?

Academic Corporation
Nanami High School
OH CRAP, IT'S ALREADY EIGHT!!
I'M GONNA BE LATE!!
hiG
... SO IN OTHER WORDS,
WHEEZE~
WHEEZE~
YOU'RE IN THAT SHAPE BECAUSE YOU STOPPED TO PICK UP THIS CARD?
FAN~
FAN~
Ordinary Course, Classroom 1-C
Oral Communication

YEAH YEAH, I KNOW YOU'RE SCARED OF SANIA-SENSEI.
PANT~
BECAUSE...
SANIA-SENSEI...
SCARY...
TARDY...
MAD ...
PANT~
...I'M SORRY, I SHOULD LET YOU CATCH YOUR BREATH FIRST.
FELL ...
FAN~ FAN~
THIS ...
FAN~ FAN~
AS IN ..
FROM THE SKY ...
BUT SAYING YOU WERE ALMOST LATE BECAUSE YOU PICKED THIS UP DOESN'T TELL ME ANYTHING
FAN~
PFFT, STOP COMPLAINING
WE SHOULD AT LEAST HAVE SOME FEATURE THAT LETS US TELEPORT AROUND
WHY DO WE HAVE TO GET TIRED EVEN THOUGH IT'S NOT THE REAL WORLD?
HUFF

HEY, 'MORNING NATSU
THAT FATIGUE YOU'RE FEELING IS EXACTLY THE REASON WHY OUR MOTOR SKILLS DON'T REGRESS WHILE USING THE "BED"


BAH, THERE'S NO NEED FOR US TO DEAL WITH THOSE TROUB—
OOF!
WHAT ARE YOU GOING ON ABOUT!?
THE GREAT THING ABOUT GAIA IS THAT YOU COULD BE ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD AND STILL RECEIVE A TOP-TIER EDUCATION, ALONG WITH ALL THE BENEFITS THAT A ROBUST FINANCIAL SYSTEM BRINGS
THE REASON THEY RECREATED AN ERA FROM DECADES AGO WAS SO WE CAN UNDERSTAND THE INCONVENIENCES OF THE TIME!

THAT'S THE REASON WHY MY BIKE GOT TRASHED..
IT WAS EXPENSIVE TOO...
WHAT'S THIS?
Girl
OH?
GEEZ, WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, I ALREADY TOLD YOU I FOUND THIS ONE.
OHHH, SO YOU'RE INTO THIS KIND OF CARD DESIGNS?
DEVIOUS GRIN
HOW ABOUT THIS ONE?
RIGHT. NATSU. DIDN'T YOU SAY THAT YOU'VE BEEN WANTING A NEW CARD?
EHH!?

I SEE HOW IT IS!
YOU CLAIM THAT YOU FOUND IT SOMEWHERE, BUT IN FACT, THIS IS MERELY YOUR WAY OF PRESENTING YOUR GIFT TO NATSU!!!
EH?
EEEH!?
HEY NOW
LOOK, MASA-MUNE I'LL TELL YOU THIS NOW, BUT THAT'S A JUNK CARD
WELL, EVEN IF IT WERE A GIFT, WHO'D WANT A JUNK CARD?
RIGHT, NATSU?
HUH? Y-YEAH!
YOU'VE GOT A POINT THERE, A JUNK CARD MIGHT EVEN BE A HASSLE— MAYBE
shx bell ring
AH
A-AND SINCE HE OFFERED IT TO ME
B-BUT
FEELS LIKE SUCH A WASTE NOT TO ACCEPT IT
AH...
かぁぁ

SAY, WANNA STOP BY THE CITY ON OUR WAY HOME? WE COULD FIND A CARD FOR NATSU WHILE WE'RE AT IT
SURE.
Y-YEAH!
ガタ
ガタ

IN YOUR SEATS, EVERYONE, THE BELL HAS RUNG.
WHY!?
WHY!?
WHY DIDN'T I ACCEPT THAT RIGHT AWAY!?
I-I'M SORRY!?
ゴゴゴゴゴゴ

ガラ…

GIRLS, PLEASE BE CAREFUL OF SUSPICIOUS PEOPLE WHO TRY TO MAKE CONVERSATION WITH YOU

SO, LATELY THERE HAS BEEN REPORTS OF GIRLS BEING LURED OUT TO LOGOUT-PROHIBITED AREAS, FOLLOWED BY VIOLENT ACTS

girl
..HM?
girl
492880
THE NUMBER ...
...INCREASED?
AHH ...
YOU'RE STILL HUNG UP OVER THAT?
THAT WAS TOO EMBARRASSING

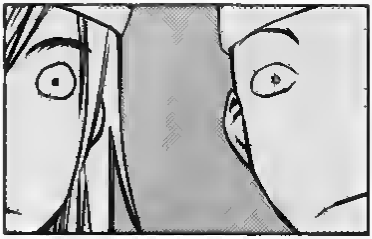
BUT I GOTTA SAY, THAT WAS ABSOLUTELY HILARIOUS.
HEY, FOCUS...
SMACK!
OWW!
I MEAN, COME ON, YELLING OUT "OUCH" IN GAIA? YOU'RE THE TYPE WHO'D ACCIDENTALLY CALL THE TEACHER "MOM," AREN'T YOU?
ARGHHH—! DON'T REMIND ME! THAT'S SO FRICKIN' HUMILIATING —!!!
SO YOU DID...
HM.

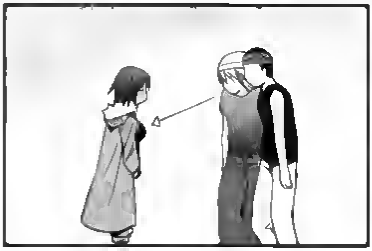
YEP, YOU'RE A GAIA JUNKIE FOR SURE,
AND YET YOU HAVE ALL THESE ISSUES. I MEAN, WHAT'S UP WITH THAT?
MHMM...
DID YOU NOT LOG OUT AGAIN LAST NIGHT TILL YOU WERE GOING TO SLEEP?
SO HOW COME YOU'RE STILL NOT USED TO GAIA?
SWIPE
TCH, JUNKIE? I JUST... PREFER TO HANG AROUND, THAT'S ALL
AH—
GLUG GLUG—
buy program
download leve
Success!

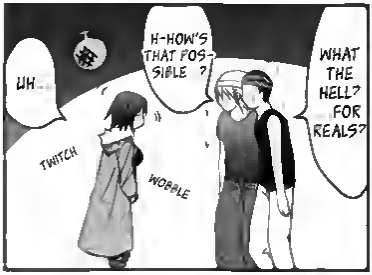
WHENEVER I'M LOGGED INTO GAIA...
BUT I HAVE TO ADMIT, SOMETIMES I FEEL A BIT OUT OF PLACE
OH HEY, NATSU IS HAGGLING AGAIN...
FROM THE LOOKS OF IT, I GUESS SHE WON'T BE BUYING ANYTHING TODAY
GEEZ, IT'S BEEN AN HOUR ALREADY...
.....
WHAT A PAIN. AS LONG AS IT'S A MAJOR CARD, ANY CARD WOULD DO, RIGHT?
YEAH, BUT YOU KNOW, IT'S NOT VERY COMMON TO SEE SOMEONE LIKE YOU, WITH ONLY A YEN CARD.
MOST PEOPLE HAVE THAT PLUS A DOLLAR AND A GEO CARD. YOU KNOW, THE BIG THREE
TOO MUCH OF A HASSLE TO CONFIGURE THEM.

!
I DON'T CARE WHO, BUT CAN'T THEY AGREE ON A SINGLE STANDARD AND UNIFY ALL THE CURRENCIES?
HAHA, IF THERE WERE REALLY SUCH A CARD, IT'D TOTALLY FLIP THE WORLD UPSIDE-DOWN.
WHAT YOU JUST SUGGESTED IS MORE OR LESS LIKE CONTROLLING ALL THE MONEY IN THE W—
...WITH US!?
ARE THOSE GUYS TRYING TO HIT ON HER?
.....
SO WHADDYA SAY? YOU FREE TO COME HANG WITH US? OR ARE YOU WAITIN' FOR SOMEONE ELSE?
.....

EY,
YOU CAN UNDERSTAND US, NO? YOU EUROPEAN?
PLAY WITH US!
YOU'VE GOT TIME TO KILL, RIGHT?
HUH? PLAY?
MRAA...
AHHH!!
C'MON, LET'S GO~
YEP, I KNOW THIS CLUB WHERE LOTS OF OTHER EUROPEANS HANG OUT OFTEN
WHAT WAS THAT?
EEN
HEY NOW, AIN'T NOTHING TO BE SCARED OF, IT'S A PRETTY CHILL PLACE, YOU CAN GET IN S'LONG AS YOU'RE OVER SIXTEEN~
P- PLEASE LET GO






WHAT THE HELL? FOR REALS?
H-HOW'S THAT POSSIBLE ?
UH...
TWITCH
WOBBLE

I'M...
...13.

!
THERE'S A COUPLE OF SUSPICIOUS GUYS HERE TRYING TO MAKE A MOVE ON THIS UNDERAGE GIRL..

HELLO? IS THIS THE POLICE STATION?
!!

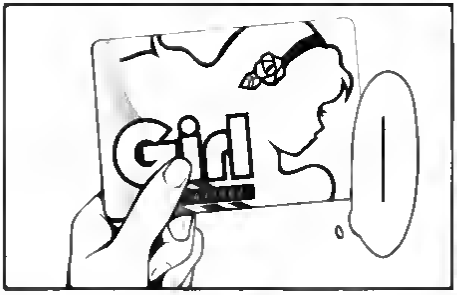
MIND YER OWN DAMN BUSI-NESS!
THE FUCK YOU SAYIN' !?
ADD TO THAT LIST OF CRIMES
USE OF ILLEGAL PROGRAMS!
MKAA
TCH! YOU FUCKIN' TWERPS!
EY, SHIT LOOKS BAD LET'S SCRAM!
WH...

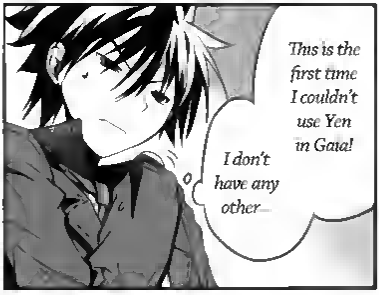
HOW COULD I STAND BY AND WATCH AFTER WHAT SANIA-SENSEI TOLD US THIS MORNING?
AH, YEAH, THAT THING ABOUT GIRLS BEING LURED TO LOGOUT-PROHIBITED AREAS...
UHM...
PTT
GLOMP—
WHOA~ YUURI IS SO COOL~ TODAY!!!
I NEVER KNEW YOU HAD IT IN YOU TO BE SUCH A WHITE KNIGHT~
BOWS~
JIGGLE JIGGLE~
!!
TH...
THANKS, YOU GUYS
AH, I-IT'S NO BIG DEAL
BY THE WAY...
MRAA...
ARE YOU REALLY THIRTEEN YEARS OLD...?
RECENTLY... 'CAUSE OF THESE, PEOPLE HAVE BEEN MISTAKING ME FOR AN ADULT. IT'S KIND OF A BOTHER...
.....
.....

GURGLE
I SWEAR, WE DIDN'T DO ANYTHING! NOTHING AT ALL! REALLY! YOU'VE GOTTA BELIEVE US!!!
OH, SO YOU GUYS DO REALIZE THE CONSE-QUENCES
W-WAIT!!! A SINGLE VIOLATION OF THE CHILD PROTECTION LAWS GETS SOMEONE BANNED FROM GAIA!!!
HELLO, POLICE? I WOULD LIKE TO REPORT THESE TWO GUYS WHO ARE TRYING TO MAKE A MOVE ON AN UNDER-AGE GIRL.
!!
EH?
BUT ...
IS SHE HUNGRY?
MRAA
GURGLE
I'LL TAKE ONE
COMING RIGHT UP
GIVE ME A SEC

SORRY, BUT I HATE THE PRESENT JAPANESE MONETARY POLICY
"EMPHASIS ON STABILITY" SOUNDS NICE AND ALL, BUT IN THIS DAY AND AGE, WHAT WE REALLY NEED IS MORE PROACTIVE APPROACH WITH CURRENCY
.....

—OH, SIR, I DON'T ACCEPT YEN HERE. PLEASE USE USD, GEO, OR SOME OTHER JUNK CURRENCY.
ERR.. WHAT?


Girl


This is the first time I couldn't use Yen in Gaia!
I don't have any other—

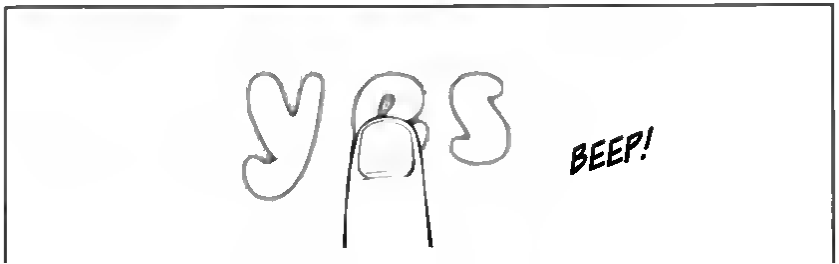
Well... since nobody else has registered on this card before, I suppose it's okay...

AH, NO, NOTHING...
HM?
REAL DEAL
章魚
WHAT THE...
Yen
$
geo
Major cards shouldn't be able to handle any of the big three currencies beyond its own!
The dollar, minted by the United States
The yen, issued by the Japanese
If there were such a thing, it would be a globally unified standard...
And geo, the international standard currency
It can't be!
What exactly is it?
This card...
HAHA, IF THERE WERE REALLY SUCH A CARD, IT'D TOTALLY FLIP THE WORLD UPSIDE-DOWN

Could it be an ill-gal card?
...No, that can't be.
Being able to utilize the three major currencies simultaneously would mean hacking the system itself.
In that case, is it just a prank displayed on e menu?
HEY!
?
?
It...
It's probably just a prank. It would've been on the news if there really were such a thing as a unified card
Still, exchanging with one of the big three seems risky. I'll just use some other junk currency...
Y-YES! UHH...
YOU GONNA BUY OR NOT?
"OZ"-CURRENCY?
DO YOU ACCEPT ...
HEY, UM..
HM?

autorun program:tin
ピーン
SURE I DO.
GREAT, THEN I'LL PAY WITH THAT!
SO, UH, THE EXCHANGE RATE FOR YEN...
I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THAT RIGHT NOW.
AHH, FORGET IT, I'LL JUST EXCHANGE FOR 300 FOR NOW. OH, FIRST I HAVE TO...
!
LINE FORMING
User Registration
BEEP BEEP
Proceed with registration?
yes
no

REGISTER
....
THE USER.


yes
BEEP!

uuu...!
HERE YOU GO.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR PATRONAGE
What was that? I felt some...
SORRY, THAT VENDOR WOULDN'T ACCEPT YEN.
SUCH A SLOWPOKE~
SMIRK
AH, THANK YOU.

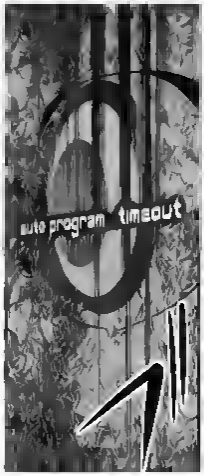
……

What is this feeling?
Seems like... Everything is different from before...
HERE, TAKE IT.
SO KIND YUURI-KUN— I THINK I'M FALLING IN LOVE WITH YOU!
OH, SHUSH YOU.
BUT DON'T YOU GUYS THINK IT'S SORT OF WEIRD?
GO AHEAD MY TREAT.
WELL, SEE YA
—MRAA?
WHAT IS?
TO BE STARVING LIKE THAT IN GAIA THERE'S NO WAY SHE'S POOR IF SHE CAN AFFORD GAIA'S CONNECTION FEES

DOES IT REALLY MATTER?
ALSO... DOES GAIA EVEN HAVE A SOUND FOR A STOMACH GROWL?
WHO KNOWS, MAYBE SHE WAS JUST ABOUT TO EAT?
OR MAYBE SHE LIKES TO PLAY THE ROLE OF A STARVING GIRL...
I JUST COULDN'T STAND SEEING A CHILD GETTING HUNGRY.
This is a world where people have forgotten about pain—
And consequently, they've forgotten about the pain of others as well.

OM NOM NOM
!!
.....
SORRY ABOUT THAT~
OWW

NOOOOOO...


auto program timeout

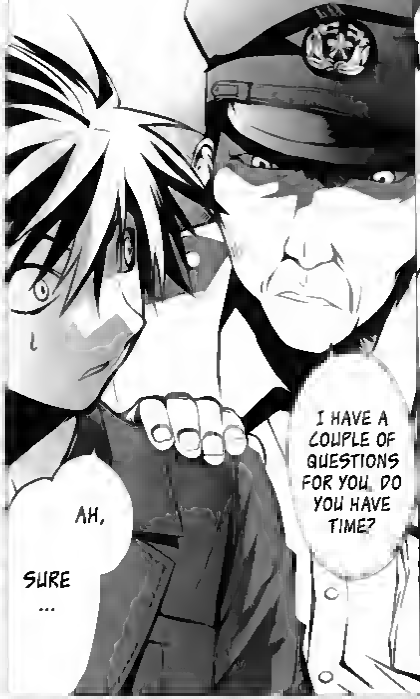
SIGHTED.
HIGH SCHOOLER, JUST LEFT THE PLAZA. THE SHORTER BOY.

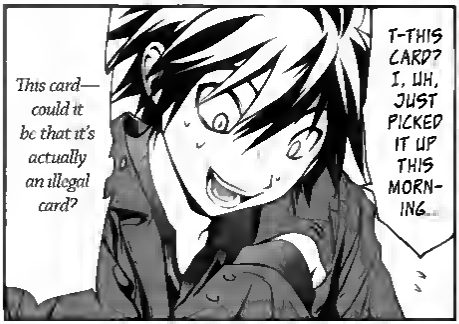
autorun program:tin
ズドーン

EH? IT'S EVENING ALREADY?

—GOT IT.
HOLD ON A SECOND THERE, BOY.
SHOCK!

IT'S ABOUT THAT CARD OF YOURS.
.....!


I HAVE A COUPLE OF QUESTIONS FOR YOU. DO YOU HAVE TIME?
AH, SURE ...


T-THIS CARD? I, UH, JUST PICKED IT UP THIS MORNING...
This card—could it be that it's actually an illegal card?

IN THAT CASE, I'M GOING TO HAVE TO ASK YOU TO FILE A LOST ITEM CLAIM REPORT. CAN YOU COME WITH ME?
YES... OKAY..

So this really is an illegal card! But then...
Crap, I shouldn't have registered my name... that'd mean the programs inside are illegal as well...
I wonder if he'll believe me if I told him that I found it on the ground...

This doesn't look too good...

Sigh... just my luck... I'm guessing they won't let me leave till they've dissected the card to get all the answers they want...
BUMP!
OW!
THAT WAS JUST MY IMAGI-NATION.
...RIGHT?
OW—?

!?

KOBAN

UHM, THE STATION IS OVER THERE

HUH?
OH, YEAH, IT'S RIGHT OVER—
YOU HAVE THE CARD WITH YOU, RIGHT? I JUST WANT TO MAKE SURE

—HERE...
EH?
KAI

RAA AAA HHH HHH !!!!
AHHH !!!
ううー
バチュッ

WHA...
WHAT IS THIS...
I see... It is the real deal...
WHY... WHY DOES IT HURT!?
This is GAIA, dammit!
IT HURTS
IT HURTS
It shouldn't be like this
This—

WAAHH!
Had I not noticed that ... of habit just then—
ドドドドドド
ガコッ
ガコーン

What the hell
What the hell is going on!?
CLICK...
TATT
TATT
TATT

THIS... NO, THIS CAN'T BE RIGHT ...
WHAT'S GOING ON...
RENOVATION IN PROGRESS
AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL ONLY BEYOND THIS POINT
COULD IT BE THAT MY BED MAL-FUNC-TIONED?
I'VE NEVER EVEN SEEN A TEXTURE THAT LOOKS SO MUCH LIKE A WOUND!
AND WHY DOES IT HURT!?
AREN'T GUNS ONLY SUPPOSED TO BE USED AGAINST ILLEGAL PROGRAM-MERS?
—RATHER THAN THAT, WHY AM I BEING SHOT AT ALL OF A SUDDEN?
HAA
HAA

—OR MAYBE, THE GUN ITSELF IS AN ILLEGAL PROGRAM.
HOW ELSE COULD THERE BE AN INJURY EFFECT IN GAIA!?
...OH, RIGHT!
I COULD JUST DISCONNECT FROM GAIA AND...
LOGOUT!!

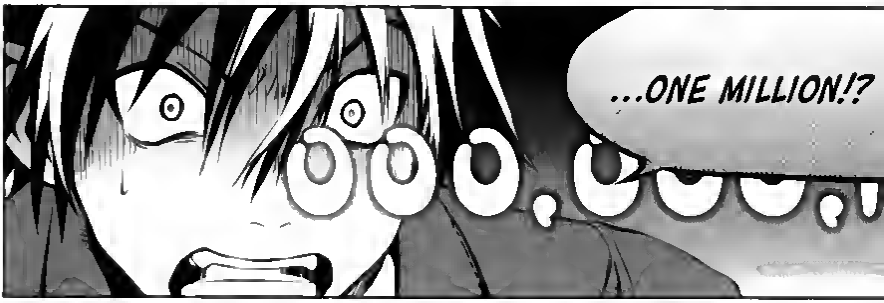
.....
LOGOUT, DAMMIT !!!
LOGOUT!
W-WHY !?
Requesting "K-9" support.
anxious low voice
DT!
.....!
ko...
ko...

WHY
WHY CAN'T I LOG OUT OF THE SYSTEM!?
HAA
HAA
EUGH !!!
I'M GONNA DIE—
I'm going to die in GAIA—
Program unavailable.
DAMMIT!
MY BIKE
OH, RIGHT, I CAN'T USE IT ANYMORE
ISN'T THERE ANYTHING USEFUL IN HERE?
GOTTA GET THE HELL OUT OF THIS PLACE

AREN'T THERE ANY PROGRAMS HERE—
HELL, AT THIS POINT, I'LL TAKE WHATEVER WORKS!

IS IT ALL CAUSE OF THIS CARD
THAT I HAVE TO GO THROUGH ALL THIS CRAP?

THE COST OF CASTING TORNADO IS
TORNADO? MAGIC? JUST WHAT KIND OF PROGRAMS ARE THESE?
Magic
Effect: Creates
Activation Cost: 1,000


...ONE MILLION!?

WHAT KIND OF JOKE IS THIS!? WHAT THE HELL IS THE EXCHANGE RATE FOR OZ CURRENCY ANYWAY—

WHA...
I'M ALMOST OUT OF YEN?
MY ENTIRE SAVINGS...
IS ONLY 300 OZ!?

whirrrr
NO WAY
whirrr

VRRRR
VRRR
VRRRRR
VRRRR
VRRRR
WAAHHHH!

HAA
HAA

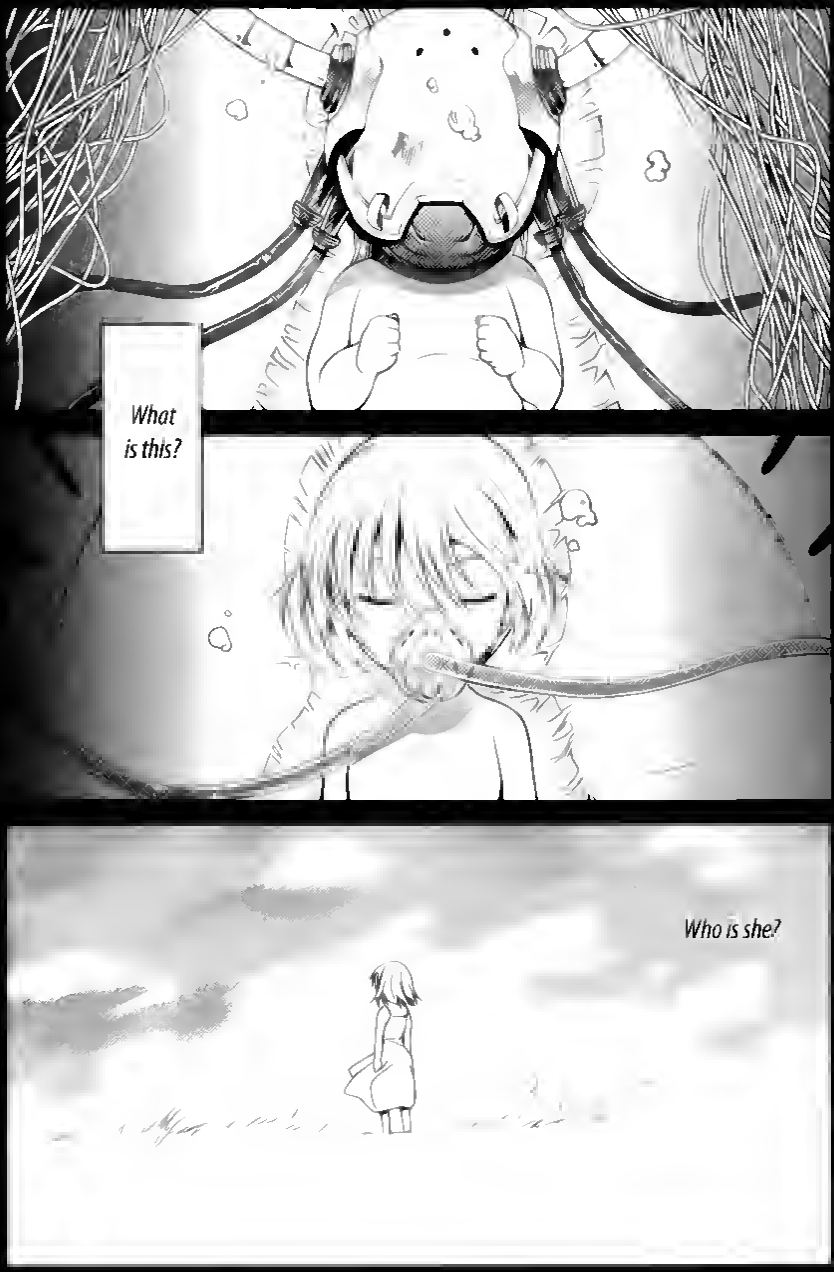
What should I do?
What to do
Whot to do
Whot to do
What to do
!?!?
What should I do...
ギロッ
メキッ
メキメキ
ヒュー
!!
uuu
...
Ga-cha!

. . . .
THIEF !!!
WUT
. . .
TH-
TH-
DON'T YOU "WUT" ME YOU KNOW I'M POSITIVE IT WAS YOU I SAW THIS MORNING
ずがずが
?
?
WHO ARE YOU?
I CHASED YOU DESPERATELY BUT YOU FLED WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH!
HOW DARE YOU LEAVE A FRAIL GIRL BEHIND!? I EVEN CRIED A BIT! ALL BECAUSE OF YOU!
I DON'T EVEN HAVE MUCH STAMINA TO BEGIN WITH YOU SLY JERK
C-COULD YOU PLEASE JUST CALM DOWN FOR A SEC?

If I fall...
from way up here...
this current "me" ...
there's a good chance that...
I'll die...
HEY, HEY! ARE YOU LISTENING TO ME!?
AH ...
YOU DIDN'T HAND THAT OVER TO THE POLICE, DID Y—
POLICE?
OKAY, LOOK, I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED BUT CAN YOU PLEASE SAVE IT TILL LATER? I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THIS RIGHT NOW, THIS POLICE OFFICER—
ドン

If I fall...
I'll die...
program
Beep!
PROGRAM LAUNCH—
Go!

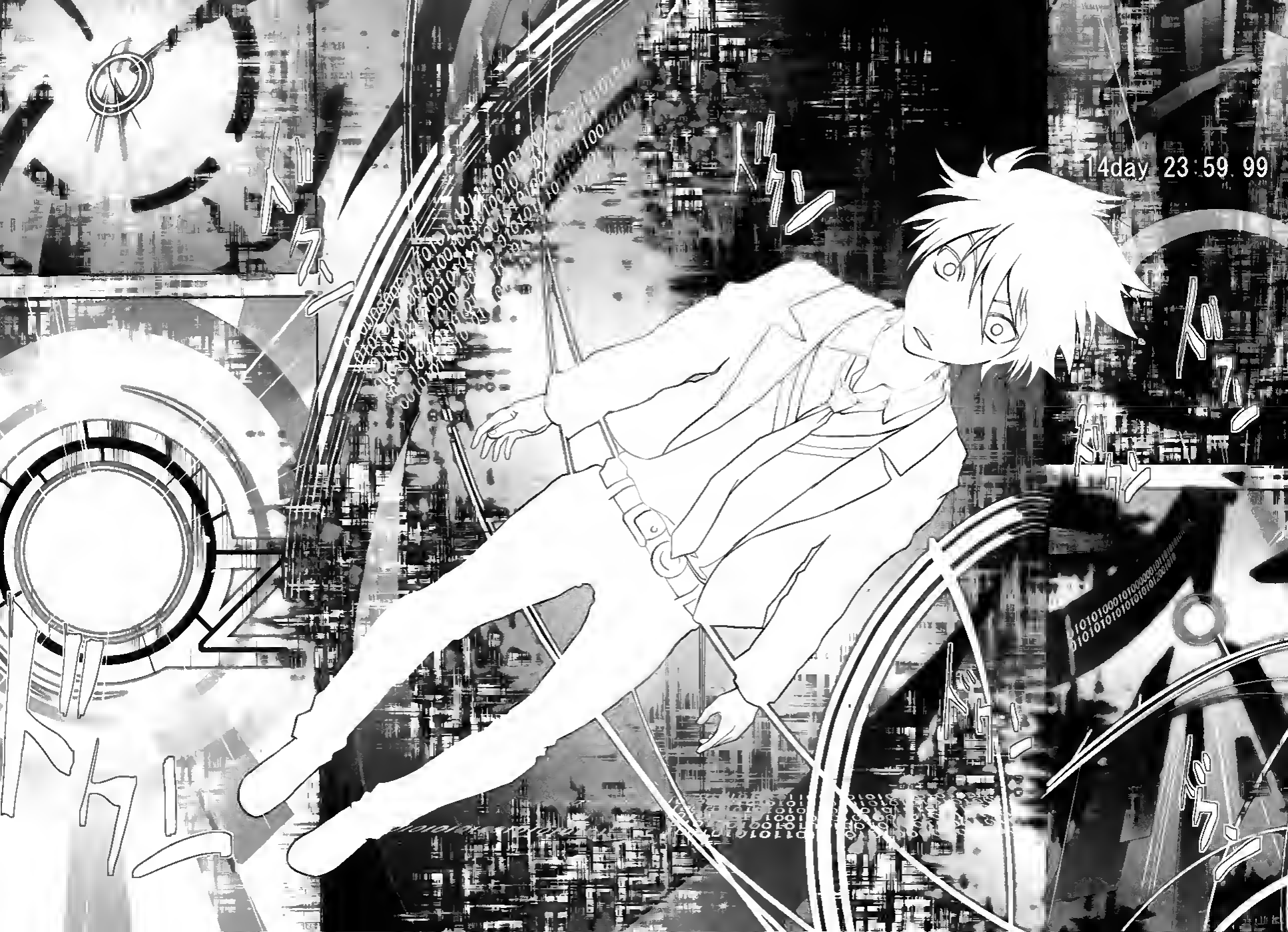
Magic
Activation Cost: 0
Effect: Creates an Oz program of choice
Magic works, anything works,
JUST SAVE ME !!!
MAGIC !!!


What is this?
Who is she?

This image ...
What exactly am I seeing?

DOROTHY.
WHAT DOES THIS WORLD LOOK LIKE THROUGH YOUR EYES?

THIS WORLD, WHICH WAS BORN WITH YOU AND GREW UP WITH YOU...
I WANT YOU—
to decide the future of this world.


14day 23:59 99

She's referring to the program cost

KYAA !!!
WAH!

WAAHHHH!
OOF!!
どす
run program : MAGIC … success
create program : SILVER SHOES
run program : SILVER SHOES
used: 10 Oz

UUFF.. NO IDEA WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON ANYMORE,
BUT AT THE VERY LEAST, I WAS SAV—
キ…
ギ
！！

ビキッ
ビシッ
!!
……？

A MODEL #097 PATROL ROBOT, EH.
IT'S A PIECE OF CAKE IF IT'S NOT UPDATED.
—This just in.
Earlier today, Japan's Adachi District
was struck by a massive blackout.

!!
—reports that in the residential area, a major apartment complex has collapsed—
NEWS FLASH Massive blackout ir
DISCONNECTED EMAIL BATTERY
PRIMARY POWER SUPPLY DI- NOW SWITCHING TO TIM-
W-WAIT A SEC—
THAT... ISN'T THAT MY APART- MENT!?

GIVE IT BACK.
THAT'S MINE.

OZ —オズ—
岩井恭平 & 刻夜セイゴ

VOLUME ONE CHAPTER ONE

Story time! So there I was, surfing Gelbooru looking for pictures of headphone chicks and lo and behold, guess which cute tsundere popped up on my screen. Right, so after a couple of hours of playing Internet Detective I managed to acquire some raws. By then it was three in the morning but I still read through it all because Dorothy oh good heavens Dorothy my fetish fuel station attendant of the year. So cute. She even cried a bit! But I digress. Just as I decided to translate the series, university life happened (Imagine six class per quarter plus a part-time job because manga is a more expensive habit than smoking cigarettes). Anyway, I got tired of seeing such an awesome title being stalled so I sucked it up and bulldozed through the first chapter over the long weekend. And here we are! I originally intended to release them in volume bundles, but since the first chapter was 80+ pages, whatever. Pilot chapter gets pilot release. Any mistakes committed in this release (e.g. that colored spread I lifted off Gelbooru because I didn't finish redrawing) will be rectified for the volume batch release... whenever I get around to finishing redraws and stuff.

Technical stuff. The raw source came from the Taiwanese edition. Yes, I translated from Mandarin. But before you start screaming over translation infidelity, let me point out that a certain pickled ume fruit did me the amazing favor of checking over my translations. The funny thing was that most of the stuff he noted was my fault and not the fault of the Japanese/Mandarin translator, MIAO. In fact, in the words of Super Umeboshi, they are "uncannily accurate" — and come on now, if you can't trust Super Umeboshi, who can you trust!?!?

Yeah...so, if you're still reading this, some credits where they're due: Super Umeboshi for authenticity translation checks and supplementary scans, Sean for the primary scans and preliminary leveling, meta for helping me re-do the cleaning/redraws on that first page as well as being the #1 O/A fan, anego for helping me with Yuuri's clothing lineart on that one annoying spread, and of course Kiiragi for being the occasional cheerleader or something like that. Hope y'all enjoyed the chapter. More to come. Stay tuned.

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Remember that the best way to say thanks is to purchase your own legit copy of the manga to support the original authors. I certainly did. In fact, it was so nice, I bought it twice.

Come lurk in #MIXINI @ IRC.IRCHIGHWAY.NET or just stop by to say hi.
Post Dorothy fanart, get voiced. ~~Post Haru-Haru fanart, get banned from Gun-~~

#02_Girl

Once again, in Japan's Adachi District, a major apartment complex has collapsed.
Authorities are considering both the possibilities of an accident as well as a terrorist attack, and along with forming a countermeasure committee—
HEY!!
Furthermore, in the vicinity of the collapsed building, there are reports of an electromagnetic disturbance of unknown source.
TOKIWA
MY...
MY APART-MENT...
WHERE THE HELL ARE YOU LOOK-ING?
I SAID, GIVE ME MY CARD BACK!!!

ARGH— LOOK! NOW THE COPS ARE HERE!
TAP!
WE GOTTA RUN!
WH-

I-I'M GONNA FALL OFF!
AHH!!
WE'RE GONNA RU—

ガゴッ
ガゴッ
バガッ
HE WON'T REMEMBER ANY OF THIS ANYWAY! THAT WAS ONLY A PUPPET!
DID YOU JUST DO THAT TO A POLICE OFFICER

THERE'S NO WAY NORMAL PEOPLE WOULD DIE HERE, NO MATTER WHAT YOU DO
BESIDES, THIS IS GAIA.
!
UNLIKE YOU.
This girl...
Who in the world is she?

MRAA...
An activation cost of 10...
It's a program I haven't seen before...
But to purposely use and expose a weak program that costs only 10...
It must be a new Oz user who just got a card...
SUDDEN HALT!

Additional card match detected
I'm sure ... this person will be killed very soon
An easy target
autorun program.in

HOW LONG ARE YOU GONNA CLING TO ME LIKE THAT!? LET GO ALREADY!
PPT!
WE'VE RUN FAR ENOUGH THAT THERE SHOULDN'T BE ANY MORE PROBLEMS SO NOW...
OWOW OWW ...

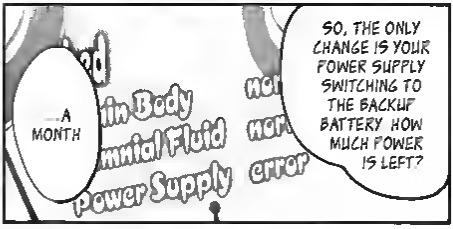
SINCE I'VE SAVED YOU...
HOW ABOUT YOU HURRY UP AND GIVE ME MY CARD BACK ALREADY?
わきわき
GEEZ! ARE YOU EVEN LISTENING TO ME? GIVE—
すっ
.....
わき...
"MY CARD THIS MY CARD THAT"
FOR CRYING OUT LOUD GIVE IT A REST ALREADY !!!

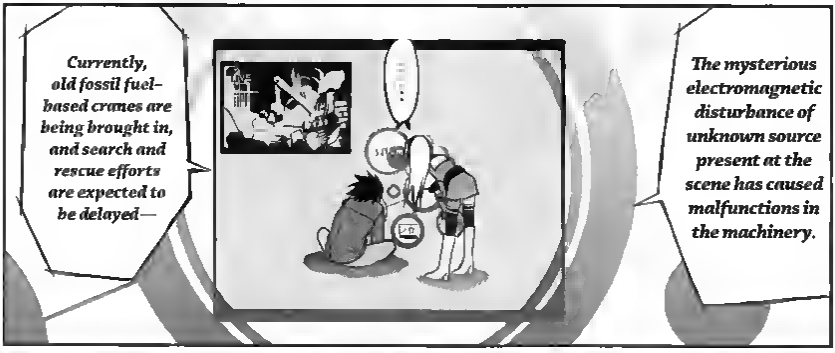
WHAT'S UP WITH THIS CARD!?
I JUST HAPPENED UPON THIS CARD BY CHANCE, ALL OF A SUDDEN I GET SHOT BY A POLICEMAN, AND NOW I'M BLEEDING EVEN THOUGH I'M STILL IN GAIA...
AND I CAN'T LOG OUT EITHER! IS THAT 'CAUSE OF THIS CARD TOO!?
AND ON TOP OF ALL THAT, MY FACE IS RUINED...
WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON HERE...
YOU...
YOUR USELESS WHINING IS GETTING ON MY NERVES
!!

SHOULDN'T YOU GO CHECK IF YOUR BED IS DAMAGED? WHAT ABOUT THE BODY? OR THE TUBING FOR THE SOMNIAL FLUID?
IF YOU HAVE THE TIME AND ENERGY TO BE CRYING THERE,
AH!
SO PATHETIC! GETTING ALL FREAKED OUT JUST 'CAUSE YOUR APARTMENT COLLAPSED!
...guh...
blergh...
...ggh...
R RIGHT
PHEW~
...THINGS STILL LOOK NORMAL...
Mail
Memory

AND TO THINK YOU WERE FREAKING OUT OVER LITTLE STUFF LIKE THIS, GEEZ...
PSH, IT'S PRETTY MUCH FULL! AND EITHER WAY, YOU'LL PROBABLY BE RESCUED BY TOMORROW OR THE DAY AFTER, SO YOU DON'T HAVE ANY REASON TO WORRY!
ばた～～ん
—This just in.
OW OW !!!

YOU CAN NOURISH YOURSELF BY BUYING FOOD IN HERE, SO YOU WON'T DIE OF STARVATION OR ANYTHING!
YOU SEE? AS LONG AS THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH THE SOMNIAL FLUID CIRCULATION,


—A MONTH
Power Supply
error
SO, THE ONLY CHANGE IS YOUR POWER SUPPLY SWITCHING TO THE BACKUP BATTERY. HOW MUCH POWER IS LEFT?


Currently, old fossil fuel–based cranes are being brought in, and search and rescue efforts are expected to be delayed—
The mysterious electromagnetic disturbance of unknown source present at the scene has caused malfunctions in the machinery.

ERR... WELL, IT'S NO BIG DEAL JUST 'CAUSE THEY'RE A TAD BIT LATE..
system

SO NOW, JUST RETURN THE CARD TO ME, AND WAIT PATIENTLY FOR PEOPLE TO RESCUE YOU.

EH?
WELL THEN, THERE YOU HAVE IT, ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL!

FRIGHT!

UNLESS... YOU WANT TO HANG ON TO THAT SCAAARYYYYY CARD?

AT LEAST FROM THIS POINT ON, I DON'T THINK YOU WOULD.

THEN I WON'T HAVE TO DEAL WITH THAT SORT OF DANGER AGAIN, RIGHT...?

IF... IF I GIVE THIS BACK...

OKAY THEN ...
...
ARE YOU RETURNING THE MONEY?
WELL, YEAH!
...BUT BEFORE THAT, I NEED TO TRANSFER THE MONEY BACK TO MY ACCOUNT...
Ehh??
NO WAY! THE EXCHANGE RATE TO YEN IS 10000 1 !?

EVEN THOUGH I'M GONNA RETURN IT AND ALL, I SHOULD STILL TAKE A LOOK AT THE HELP MANUAL
SHOCK!
WHAT?
N-
NO, NOTHING
WAHH!!
WHY !?
W-WHAT'S WITH YOU ALL OF A SUDDEN? I'M JUST TAKING A LOOK AT THE MANUAL—
IT'S JUST A CARD! YOU OUGHTA BE ABLE TO USE IT WITHOUT THE MANUAL, SHOULDN'T YOU? ARE YOU COMPUTER ILLITERATE OR SOMETHING? I'LL JUST DO IT FOR YOU!

IT-IT'S JUST
...HUH? WHY ARE YOU QUIET ALL OF A SUDDEN?
SPEEDY RETREAT!
AH!
EVER SINCE I REGISTERED MYSELF AS THAT CARD'S USER, MY SENSE OF TOUCH HAS SEEMED ODDLY REALISTIC OR SOMETHING
!

HOW CREEPY... YOU PERVERT, I GUESS I CAN'T LET MY GUARD DOWN AROUND YOU AT ALL!
H-HEY NOW, YOU WERE THE ONE WHO CAME AT ME!
I WOULDN'T ASK YOU TO GIVE IT BACK FOR FREE EITHER...
ARGH SO YOU'RE ONE OF THOSE PEOPLE
OKAY, FINE, I GET IT
NN!

NOW, IF YOU'RE SATISFIED, GIVE ME MY C—
TREMBLE~
QUIVER~
The controls are more or less the same as a regular card
Maybe the card meta-info
BEEP! BEEP!
I... I ki... I'll kill ...!

OZ ONLINE MANUAL

Ver. [illegible]

To ensure user safety,
Please pay attention to the following.

- User must run a preinstalled program after initiating registration to be formally registered into the system. After registration completes, there will be a two-week period in which any attempts to modify the user registry will be ignored.

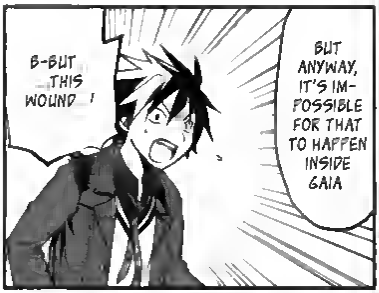
- Running preinstalled programs consumes currency unique to the system, "Oz." Consumed monies will accumulate in a common jackpot for all Oz cardholders. When there is only one Oz cardholder remaining, the jackpot will go to that person.

- This card is intimately tied to the bed's internal mechanisms. Using this card will expand various functions of the bed. Following the aforementioned points, the bed may be severely damaged if the card is damaged, or if the card goes offline upon empty Oz balance.

WARNING

System still in beta-testing stage.
User may be at risk of ***severe injury*** or ***death***.

What... the heck is this ...
System still in beta-testing stage.
User may be at risk of severe injury or death
Uuu!
THAT'S CRAZY—
And in GAIA, of all places ...
It's just a card, yet it's possible to die over something like this ...?


B-BUT... THIS WOUND...!
BUT ANYWAY, IT'S IM-POSSIBLE FOR THAT TO HAPPEN INSIDE GAIA

IM POSSI BLE.

THERE ARE EVEN MORE INCREDIBLE SECRETS TUCKED AWAY INSIDE THAT CARD.
IN FACT, WHAT'S WRITTEN THERE IS ONLY A MERE FRACTION OF THE SYSTEM MECHANICS

...YEP, IT DOES SOUND PRETTY CRAZY, HUH?

HERE'S MY ADVICE GIVE ME MY CARD BACK AND FORGET ABOUT EVERY-THING THAT HAPPENED TODAY
YOU DON'T REALLY WANT TO PUT YOURSELF THROUGH ALL THAT DANGER, DO YOU?

...ISN'T IT BETTER TO PRETEND THAT'S THE WAY IT IS?

BUT BEFORE YOU EVEN DIE DUE TO BEING BURIED UNDER THE RUBBLE, THERE WILL BE OTHER PEOPLE WHO'LL COME TO KILL YOU.
OF COURSE, BEING BURIED ALIVE IS LIGHT IN COMPARISON.
OTHER PEOPLE...?
!
If things stay the way they are now, you will die.
.....
THE GUY THAT WAS AFTER YOU, HE'S NOT THE MAIN ENEMY. HE WAS BEING CONTROLLED BY SOMEONE.
GEEZ. YOU REALLY ARE STUPID. WEREN'T YOU ATTACKED JUST A MOMENT AGO?
AH...
DID YOU THINK THAT IS THE ONLY "OZ" CARD OUT THERE?

THERE ARE OTHER OZ USERS, YOU KNOW.
BAM.
MRAA...

These people are innocent, merely controlled by some other Oz user...
But—
There is no need for mercy—
"MANE"
...
RUN.
Because just being residents of GAIA itself means they are meant to be exploited...

Lion
Haru-Haru, you are the avenger—
run program : MANE
cost : 80 Oz
run program : CLAW
cost : 100 Oz
2combo! effect : boost

...THE NUMBERS WENT UP AGAIN.
80... AND THEN ANOTHER 100.....
THERE'S AN OZ USER CURRENTLY ENGAGING IN COMBAT...
80 + 100, IS IT?
I THOUGHT THE PERSON WHO USES THAT COMBO WAS KILLED A LONG TIME AGO... IT'S BEEN SOME TIME SINCE I'VE SEEN IT USED...
KILLED ...!?
YOU'LL BE KILLED TOO, SOONER OR LATER
W-WHY WOULD I BE KILLED TOO?
DIDN'T IT CLEARLY SAY IN THE MANUAL?
USING THESE PROGRAMS WILL ACCUMULATE "OZ" CURRENCY, AND THE LAST MAN STANDING CAN COLLECT ALL THE MONEY.
RIGHT NOW, THE JACKPOT IS... WELL, CONVERTED INTO YEN,
IT'S ABOUT FIVE BILLION.
F-FI...

...!
JUST LOOKING AT THE NUMBERS CAN TELL YOU A LOT
THE ONE WHO'S USING PROGRAMS ALL THE TIME IS PROBABLY SETTING UP PUPPETS
I MEAN, IT'S NOT UNLIKELY THAT THERE'S SOME GREEDY FOOL WHO'LL ATTACK OTHER OZ USERS, RIGHT?
So... So...
Wait a sec
The fact that he's injured can only mean that—
...?
EVEN THOUGH THAT CARD HAS ONLY TWO PROGRAMS BUILT INTO IT, IF YOU USE THEM RIGHT, YOU CAN STILL BEAT THE OTHER USERS—
HEY!
WH-WHA!?

Did he already register as a user!?
Aside from identification, he should've had to run a program to complete the registration—
TORNADO SHOULD NOT BE USABLE YET—
YOU USED MAGIC, DIDN'T YOU!?
UH...?
MAGIC CAN MAKE WHATEVER SORT OF PROGRAM THE USER WANTS!
WHAT DID YOU MAKE!? SHOW ME!!
WHA... WHY'RE YOU SO AGITATED ALL OF A SUDDEN?
...MY GUESS IS THAT THE ABILITY TO CREATE ANY PROGRAM YOU WANT IS UNIQUE TO THIS CARD
WHICH IS WHY THIS "GIRL" CARD ONLY COMES WITH TWO PROGRAMS, TO MAINTAIN THE BALANCE BETWEEN THESE CARDS...
ON THE FLIP SIDE, THE KEY TO VICTORY LIES IN WHAT KIND OF PROGRAM YOU MAKE...
MUTTER MUMBLE
IT... IT'S THIS...

Silver Shoes Activation Cost: 10

Effect: Transfers a certain quantity of mass to the desired coordinates.

W-WHAT'S WRONG? IS THERE A PROBLEM WITH THIS!?
I'VE SEEN THE JACKPOT GO UP PLENTY OF TIMES... AND I'M GUESSING THAT THE POWER OF A PROGRAM INCREASES WITH ITS COST...
THE ONE YOU MADE... ONLY COSTS 10...
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE SEEN SUCH A WEAKSAUCE PROGRAM...

C'MON, DON'T CRY...
I'M STILL NOT CLEAR ON WHAT'S GOING ON BUT...
AIKES!
I'M NOT CRYING !!!

GIVE!
GIVE IT BACK!
IF I DON'T HAVE IT, I—
LET'S SAY I RETURN THE CARD TO YOU. THEN WHAT DO YOU PLAN TO DO?
!
GRAB!
...Sure looks like crying to me...

FRANKLY, I'M FED UP WITH ALL THIS UNCERTAINTY AND BEING LEFT—
TH-THAT
IF I HAND IT BACK TO YOU NOW, YOU'LL TRY TO CHANGE THE USER INFO, RIGHT!?
IT WAS WRITTEN IN THE MANUAL THAT THE CARD WON'T ACCEPT ANY REQUESTS TO CHANGE USER INFO DURING THIS REGISTRATION TIMEFRAME!
YOU'LL BE HUNTED DOWN BY THE OTHER CARDHOLDERS
...?
D-DO YOU EVEN REALIZE WHAT YOUR SITUATION IS RIGHT NOW?
THOSE GUYS WILL BEGIN THEIR FRENZIED SEARCH
FOR YOU, THE WEAKEST AMONG ALL THE CARDHOLDERS!
BLUNTLY PUT, YOU'RE ESSENTIALLY A SITTING DUCK
IN ORDER TO ELIMINATE A COMPETITOR, OR SIMPLY TO OBTAIN AN ADDITIONAL CARD TO IMPROVE THEIR CHANCES OF SURVIVAL.
IF ALL YOU CAN USE IS THIS FUNNY PROGRAM, YOU'LL BE FOUND EVEN IF YOU TRY TO HIDE
WHA-WHAT!? WHY!?

I CAN ASSURE YOU
YOU'LL BE KILLED VERY QUICKLY
IF YOU DON'T WANT THAT TO HAPPEN—

TEAM UP WITH ME.
..HUH?

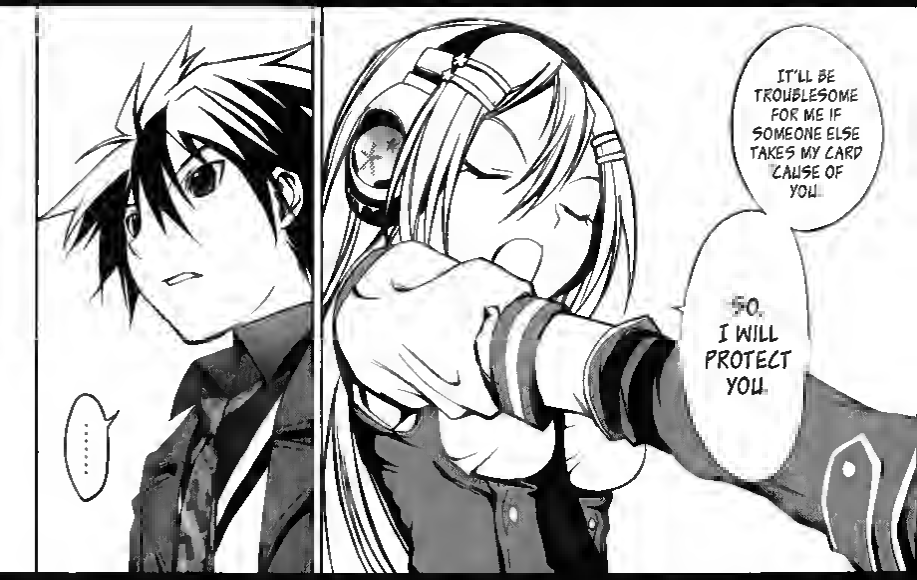
The other Oz users will probably mobilize soon to capture the user of the +10 program.
If that's the case, then I can't avoid it any further—

ooo...
oohoh...
ohh...
OOOHOHHHHH!!
ooooh
aahh...
IYAAAHHH!!!

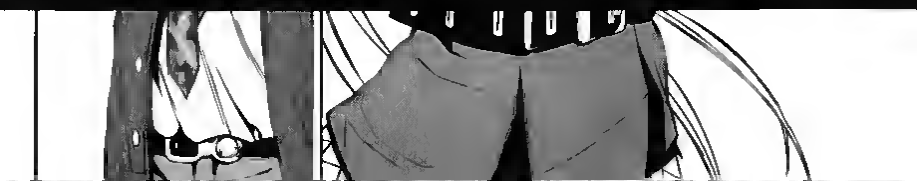
I guess I'll start searching, too
The cowardly lion hid her trepidotion beneoth her fur coot—

If all goes well, then I can take out all the other Oz users who reveal themselves in pursuing the +10 user
and sharpened her fangs with her tears.
MRAA

The lost young girl—



while trying to find the place she should return to,

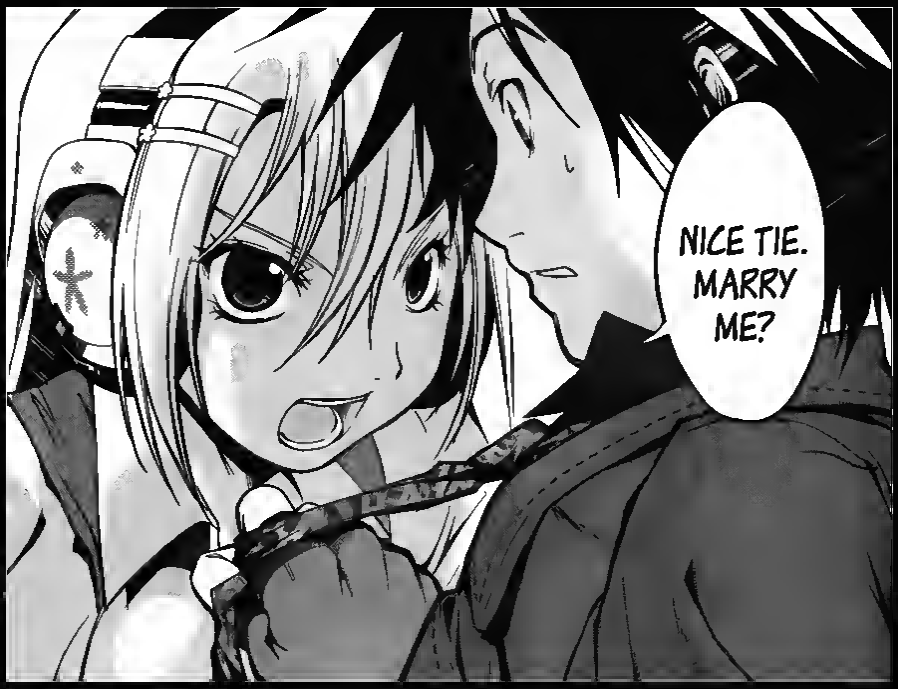


awakened the silver shaes.

What's up with this girl? She appears in front of me out of nowhere, and I have no way of telling if she's a friend or foe...
But...
It's exactly as she says— There is no way I can make it on my own.

OONO YUURI.
...DOROTHY.

IT'S NOT LIKE I TRUST YOU YET!
JUST DO IT, YOU IDIOT!



OZ —オズ—
岩井恭平 & 刻夜セイゴ

VOLUME ONE CHAPTER TWO

And so, here we are! The sophomore release. The next release will be the volume batch, which includes the last chapter plus all the extra goodies. I'm also working on another project about a midget who becomes a superhero. Or does he? In any case, patience is a virtue. But you know that already. Right?

As before, a torrent of gratitude to Umeboshi for proofreading the translations. Still using Sean's scans. Thanks to Kiiragi for keeping me entertained by telling me about his illustrious love life while I stayed up on a Friday night redrawing the Haru-Haru spread (pp. 112–113) and to a certain tsundere ircop for reminding how convenient Topaz is (flu2scar).

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If you like it, support the industry and the authors by purchasing your own copy.
Fun fact: the Taiwanese editions cost around $5–6 per volume (including int'l shipping).

Come lurk in #MIXINI @ IRC.IRCHIGHWAY.NET and say hi every now and then.

THAT CARD IS COMPLETELY DISCONNECTED FROM THE GAIA SYSTEM—THE "PARADISE BLUEPRINT."
493070
YOU'VE LEARNED ABOUT IT IN CLASS, HAVEN'T YOU?
THIS WORLD WE'RE IN, "GAIA"
PARA-DISE BLUE-PRINT, HM...
IS SIMPLY MADE UP OF DIGITAL INFORMATION.

AND WIND CREATES WAVES IN THE OCEAN WHICH ARE ALSO MADE OF ELEMENTS
SHOCK!
THE SUN COMPRISED OF ELEMENTS WARMS UP THE AIR ALSO COMPRISED OF ELEMENTS TO PRODUCE WIND—
THEY ARE ALL PART OF THE "PARADISE BLUEPRINT," INCLUDING THE VESSELS THAT EMULATE OUR EXTERNAL APPEARANCES, "AVATARS," THE ONLY INDESTRUCTIBLE COMPONENTS
BUT, ONLY PARTICULAR CARDHOLDERS ARE EXEMPTED FROM THE RULES OF THE SYSTEM—

#03_Silver Shoes (1)

EUU
UUGH

OW!
MY WHOLE BODY HURTS..

..DOROTHY..?

UUWAA!
ズキッ
ズキッ
YAWN...
This is the first time in my life camping outside
It's so cold. And my entire body aches...
TEAM UP..
WITH ME...?
Last night.
THAT ONE PROGRAM INSTALLED IN THIS CARD...
TORNADO ...
MONEY

"REFORMAT THE DIGITAL WORLD."
IS THIS FOR REAL ...?
THAT'S JUST A TROLL. THERE'S NO WAY A MERE CARD CAN BE THAT POWERFUL.
SO IN OTHER WORDS, GAIA CAN BE DELETED WITH TEN BILLION YEN?
THE COST IS ONE MILLION OZ.
Y-YEAH RIGHT. THEY RUN BACKGROUND CHECKS ON ALL GAIA USERS. HOW COULD THERE BE TERRORISTS?
STILL, IT'S NOT COMPLETELY IMPOSSIBLE.
...THOUGH, IF THE EXISTENCE OF THIS CARD WERE MADE KNOWN TO ALL, MAYBE SOME TERRORISTS WILL TAKE IT SERIOUSLY AND COME KILL YOU FOR IT.
SWITCHE

I DON'T KNOW IF IT'S TRUE, BUT IT SEEMS THAT THIS CARD CAN ACCESS ALL THE CURRENCIES.
IF IT IS... THEN THEN COUNTRIES THAT HAVE BEEN PAYING SO MANY UNREASONABLE TRANSACTION FEES ALL THESE YEARS TO MAINTAIN THEIR ALTERNATIVE CURRENCIES... WELL, IT'S POSSIBLE THAT THEY WILL WAGE WAR.
W-WAR!?
IT'S IMPORTANT TO CONSIDER EVERY SINGLE POSSIBILITY.
"SUPPOSE..."
"WHAT IF..."
THERE ARE PLENTY OF PEOPLE WHO WON'T HESITATE TO KILL OVER EVEN THE SLIGHTEST PROBABILITIES.
...AND WITH THINGS AS THEY ARE, THE ONLY WEAPON AVAILABLE TO US IS...
Silver Shoes
Activation Cost: 10
THIS PROGRAM THAT SOME MORON MADE WITH "MAGIC"
URGH...

A 10-OZ PROGRAM, I'VE YET TO SEE ONE THIS WEAK.
"TRANFERS A CERTAIN QUANTITY OF MASS TO THE DESIRED COORDINATES"
SERIOUSLY, WHAT THE HECK IS THIS?
W-WHO KNOWS?

SO HOW BIG IS ITS RANGE OF EFFECT?
AND WHAT'S THE MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF MASS IT CAN TRANSFER?
WHAT IF THERE'S AN OBSTACLE IN THE TARGET LOCATION? THEN WHAT?
AH, ERM
EH?

DOES IT PERFORM INSTANT TRANSMISSION ON AN OBJECT?

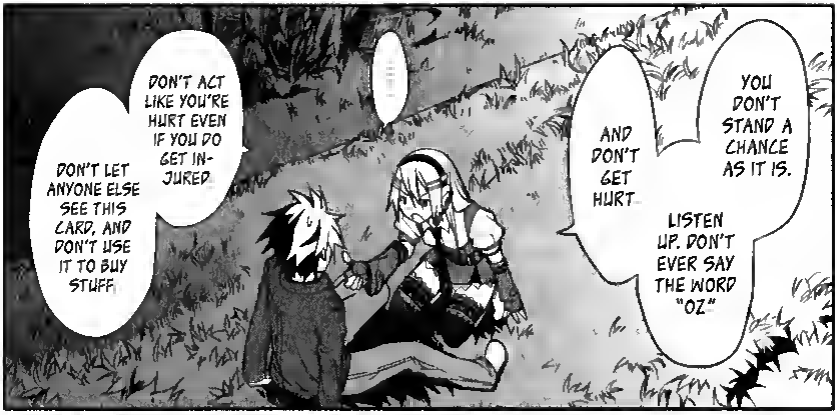
WHAT EXACTLY WERE YOU THINKING WHEN YOU WERE GONNA DIE?
THIS PROGRAM WAS MADE BY ANALYZING YOUR THOUGHTS AT THAT TIME.
THINK!

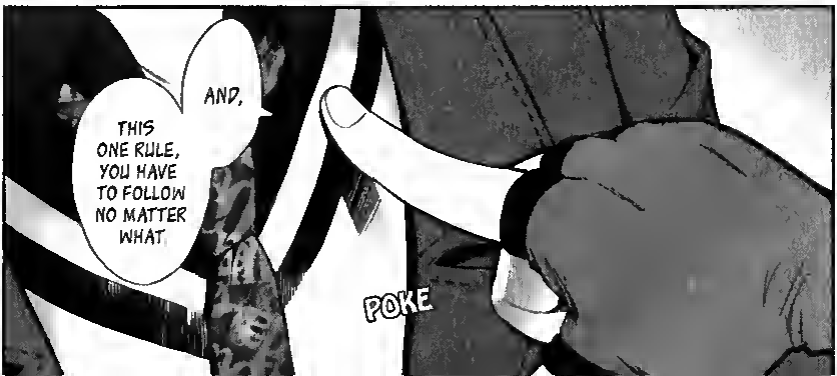
RU RU RU
I- I JUST DON'T KNOW! I WAS REALLY DESPERATE BACK THEN—
WHOA!
WHAT'S GOING ON!?
THE NUMBER ON THE CARD IS GOING UP AGAIN... ZOO...
ZOO...
493870
ANOTHER ?

ZOO FIVE TIMES, SO 1000
WAIT... TEN MILLION YEN!? AND JUST LIKE THAT!?!?
IT'S THE PUPPETS.
I'VE BEEN ATTACKED BEFORE, TOO,
WHEN I BLURTED OUT THE WORD "OZ"
THE INSTRUCTIONS ARE PROBABLY "ATTACK ALL THOSE WHO SAY 'OZ'"
YOU MUST'VE DONE IT TOO, RIGHT?
DO YOU ACCEPT "OZ" CURRENCY?
Was it that time?
THAT ZOO-OZ PROGRAM IS PROBABLY WHAT'S CONTROLLING THEM, LIKE THAT OFFICER.
HE MUST BE RESUPPLYING SOMEWHERE SINCE THE NUMBER OF PUPPETS DWINDLED.

I GUESS HIS REASONING IS "IF PUPPETS KILL OTHER OZ CARDHOLDERS, THEN GREAT; IT'S WORTH IT IF THEY SHOW THEIR WEAKNESS."
HE'S CAUTIOUS AND LETS THE PUPPETS DO ALL THE WORK SO HE DOESN'T LEAVE ANY OTHER TRACKS.
THIS GUY MUST HAVE A LOT OF MONEY TO USE THAT PROGRAM SO MANY TIMES.
STUPID!
HUH? ISN'T IT SAFER TO HIDE OUT FOR THE NEXT TWO WEEKS?
OUR MAIN ENEMY IS THIS GUY FOR NOW.
...OH, AND YOU SHOULD GO TO SCHOOL TOMORROW.
IF THE ENEMY HAS CONTACTS IN THE SCHOOL OR THE POLICE, DON'T YOU THINK THEY'D FIND YOU OUT RIGHT AWAY?
AH
ERM
WHAT IF THE SCHOOL FILES A MISSING PERSON REPORT WITH THE POLICE?
SO LET'S SEE. A PUPPET COMES AFTER YOU AND YOU EXPOSE YOURSELF WITH THAT WEAK PROGRAM. THEN YOU DISAPPEAR AND DON'T SHOW UP TO SCHOOL THE NEXT DAY.

Sigh
CAN WE REALLY GET THROUGH TWO WEEKS LIKE THIS?
...OKAY, YOU KNOW WHAT, AFTER SCHOOL, LET'S DO SOME SPECIAL TRAINING.
SPECIAL TRAINING?


YOU DON'T STAND A CHANCE AS IT IS.
LISTEN UP. DON'T EVER SAY THE WORD "OZ"
AND DON'T GET HURT
DON'T ACT LIKE YOU'RE HURT EVEN IF YOU DO GET INJURED
DON'T LET ANYONE ELSE SEE THIS CARD, AND DON'T USE IT TO BUY STUFF


AND,
THIS ONE RULE, YOU HAVE TO FOLLOW NO MATTER WHAT
POKE

DO NOT USE ANY OZ PROGRAMS.
IF YOU USE IT, THE NUMBERS ON THE CARD WILL INCREASE BY TEN, AND THE OTHERS WILL KNOW YOU'RE STILL ALIVE.
WELL, YOU CAN'T USE TORNADO EVEN IF YOU WANTED TO, BUT YOU MUST NOT USE SILVER SHOES EITHER.
WHA?
YOU'VE STILL ONLY USED IT ONCE.
I'D ACTUALLY LIKE TO TEST THIS PROGRAM'S CAPABILITIES MORE, BUT WE REALLY SHOULDN'T USE IT AT ALL.

"THERE HASN'T BEEN ANY SIGNS OF THAT 10-OZ PROGRAM USER SINCE THAT TIME, SO HE WAS PROBABLY KILLED BY ANOTHER USER ALREADY."
...THAT'S WHAT WE HAVE TO MAKE THEM THINK.
WE HAVE TO KEEP IT UP FOR HALF THE DURATION AT LEAST— ONE WEEK
AND, IF WE CAN, THE ENTIRE TWO WEEKS. THAT'S HOW WE'LL STAY CLEAR.
SINCE WE HAVE NO CHANCE AT WINNING A DIRECT CONFRONTATION, THIS IS THE ONLY OPTION WE'RE LEFT WITH.
YOU HAVE TO PROMISE ME YOU WON'T USE ANY OZ PROGRAMS GOT THAT?
GOT IT.

WELL THEN, FOR STARTERS, YELL OUT "OZ," ONE HUNDRED TIMES!
WAIT, WHAT?
ALSO, YOU CAN'T LEAVE MY SIGHT!
I'LL BE FOLLOWING YOU AROUND 24 HOURS A DAY TO TRAIN YOU TO DEATH!
WHAT THE HECK ARE YOU DOING!? DIDN'T YOU JUST SAY WE CAN'T SAY THAT WORD!?
MM? THERE'S NOBODY HERE, SO WE GOTTA SAY IT AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE WHILE WE CAN.
WHEN SOMEONE TELLS YOU NOT TO SAY SOMETHING, DON'T YOU WANNA SAY IT EVEN MORE?
Oz!
Oz
Oz
Oz
Oz
Oz
Oz

Oz Oz Oz Oz Oz Oz Oz Oz…
WAA!! HEY!!!! WHAT IF SOMEONE ACTUALLY HEARS YOU!?
I'M BEGGING YOU, STOP THAT!!
—
This is where I got hit by a car—

Don't act like you're hurt.
OW—
?
collapse, rescue team experiencing tech difficulties
timate minimum three days before victims excavated
Two weeks...
In two weeks, after I give back Dorothy her card, my life will return to normal.

The way she put it... sounds like she has never used this card...
EVEN THOUGH I DON'T KNOW IF THIS IS REAL
Give back her card...
...HUH?
Then what were those images I saw when I used the card?
Since she said it was hers, I thought she created this card herself, or perhaps someone gave it to her—
DOROTHY, WHAT DOES THIS WORLD LOOK LIKE THROUGH YOUR EYES?
...No.
RORO

I don't have the time to be thinking about that right now.
IT'LL BE FINE
ALL I HAVE TO DO IS ACT NORMAL FOR TWO WEEKS!
GOD-DAMN!
YAWN~ LET'S LOG OUT AND GET SOME SLEEP.
DIDN'T PICK UP A SINGLE CHICK ALL NIGHT!
OH?
HMM?
TWITCH TWITCH
SNEAK SNEAK
AVOIDING CONTACT

...HAVE I MENTIONED TO YOU? I MADE A NEW PROGRAM RECENTLY.
OH?
AWW... IF THAT KID DIN'T COME AND MESS THINGS UP YESTER-DAY,
WE'D BE CHILLIN' WITH THAT CUTIE RIGHT NOW... THEN AGAIN, SHE'S ONLY 13 THAT MIGHT'VE BEEN BAD.
Ehh...
Rond
HOW'S A LIVE DEMO SOUND?
YUURI—!

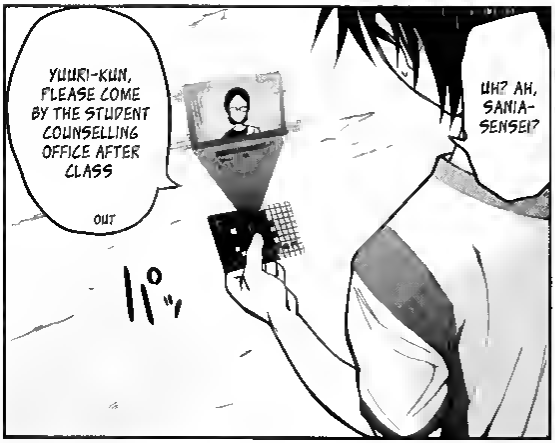
TAKE THIS!!
WHY WOULD I SAY ANYTHING LIKE THAT?
SHAKE
TWITCH
QUIVER
EHHH—? THAT'S NO FUN..
POH
HEY, WHERE'S YOUR USUAL "OUCH" TODAY?
...
HEY NOW, CAN'T YOU BE MORE SERIOUS? OUR LUNCH IS AT STAKE ON THIS GAME...
WHOOP-SIES~!!
BOUNCE

WIFE
WIFE
...THIS IS BAD. THIS IS REALLY BAD
C'MON STOP IT STOP BLEEDING ALREADY
WHAT!? NO, MY LUNCH!
OH! LOOK! THE BALL WENT IN! I'LL GO RECORD SCORE!
DRIP
ARE YOU DOING YOUR BEST, YUURI -KUN?
YOU GUYS SHOULD BE ALMOST DONE THERE TOO, RIGHT?
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
IT-IT'S NOTHING
!!

I'M COMPLETELY FI—

UH?
OH, NO BIGGIE~
bow
SORRY! I'M SO SORRY!
bow
I almost forgot...

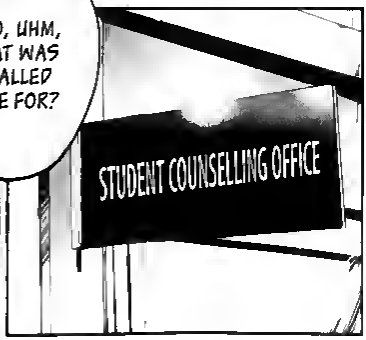
People in Gaia would never imagine that it would be possible be injured here—
So they don't think twice before doing things that could hurt me.
Could it be that right now, Gaia is...
MORE DANGEROUS TO ME THAN THE REAL WORLD...?


YUUKI-KUN, PLEASE COME BY THE STUDENT COUNSELLING OFFICE AFTER CLASS
OUT
UH? AH, SANIA-SENSEI?

DON
SHOCK!

...SO, UHM, WHAT WAS I CALLED HERE FOR?

ding~
dong~
.....?


STUDENT COUNSELLING OFFICE

I DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW YOU CAN SIT THERE SO CALMLY.
EHH?
IS IT ALL RIGHT FOR YOU TO BE HERE AT A TIME LIKE THIS?
I REALLY DON'T KNOW HOW TO DEAL WITH THIS TEACHER...
BLEH...
.....
.....
SHOCK!
THAT INCIDENT WITH THE COLLAPSED APARTMENT FROM YESTERDAY ...
UH? EKK?
YOU CALLED ME HERE, RIGHT, SENSEI? THAT'S WHY I'M—
DID YOU NOT GET CAUGHT UP IN THIS MESS?
THE SCHOOL IS ESPECIALLY CONCERNED BECAUSE YOU LIVE ALONE
ARE YOU FORCING YOURSELF TO LOG ON TO GAIA, EVEN WITH ALL THAT'S HAPPENING?
FOR SAFETY, I TOOK A LOOK THROUGH THE STUDENTS' ADDRESSES AND NOTICED YOU LIVE THERE.
.....

OR IS THERE SOME OTHER PROBLEM?
W-W-WELL UHM, Y-YOU SEE, THAT UHM, THA-THAT S—
CLENCH
N-NO...
Can I tell her the truth? But I don't know if the quake had anything to do with this card...
Thaugh, if I talk abaut it here, wauldn't that create a huge ruckus?
HM? IS SOMETHING THE MATTER? SEE HERE, THE ADDRESS CLEARLY SAYS MINATO-KU...
...MINATO?
WHA?

……?
mumble mumble
I'M SURE THAT JUST BEFORE, IT WAS …
HOW…
NAME: Oono Yuuri
ADDRESS: Minato-ku, Tokyo
YUURI -KUN, THIS IS INDEED YOUR HOME ADDRESS, YES?
UH? ERM..
コツ
コツ
SAKURAYASHIKI -SAN, COULD YOU COME OVER TO THE STUDENT COUNSELLING OFFICE?

YOU CALLED, SENSEI?
The security club!
YES, IN FACT, WE NOTED SOME STRANGE DISTURBANCES JUST NOW.
WE SUSPECT THAT SOMEONE HACKED INTO IT
HAS THERE BEEN ANY ANOMALIES WITH THE SECURITY SYSTEM?
AH? PLEASE BUTTON UP YOUR SHIRT

.....!
HOW BAD IS THE DAMAGE TO THE DATA-BASE?
DATABASE?
NO, THE INFILTRATED SECTOR IS THE SECURITY SYSTEM. THERE HASN'T BEEN ANY SIGN OF STRANGE ACTIVITY IN THE DATABASE.
NOT THE DATABASE ...?
HMM
CORRECT. IT WAS THE SECURITY SYSTEM.
THERE'S A RISK THAT OUTSIDERS HAVE SNUCK INTO OUR CAMPUS. THE CLUB AND SECURITY CENTER ARE CURRENTLY PATROLLING THE AREA.
.....
.....!

Play along and pretend you don't know anything!
Leave the rest to me!
S-SENSE!
.....
Just do it! Just do it! Just do it!
IT'S JUST A POSSIBILITY, THOUGH...
HN... INTRUDERS, YOU SAY?
T-THAT'S MY HOME ADDRESS ALL RIGHT...
...OH, IS IT?

CREEEEEEAK...
SLAM.
Y-YES, OKAY.
I MUST HAVE MADE A MISTAKE. YOU CAN GO NOW.
Gotta get her outta here before anyone else notices...
After all that about laying low and avoiding attention...
Why the hell is she here? Argh...

AH, THERE YOU ARE THIS GIRL SAID SHE'S WAITING FOR YOU
WHAT'S WRONG?
WHAT KIND OF QUESTION IS THAT?
...the hell are you...
きゃい きゃい
ぬる
...HUH?
カキン
what the
'Cause you disappeared in the morning and left me all~ by~ my~self~
I couldn't wait so I came to see you~♡
cling~

..HUHH?
EH? H-HEY!!
Well then, that'll be that! Let's go, Yuuri~♡
What the hell do you think you're doing here!?
Was that your girlfriend? Say, how was that just now?
Is it gonna get rough? Is there gonna be drama 'cause of me?
W-Well, I-I thought it'd be kinda fun, y'know? Don't be so mad...
THAT'S NOT IT!
I'M ASKING YOU WHY YOU'RE HERE!
AREN'T YOU TRES-PASSING !?
HECK NO! I'VE ALWAYS BEEN A STUDENT HERE!
STUDENT!? MY FOOT!

OKAY, SO I LIED.
BUT WHAT GIVES YOU THE RIGHT TO ACCUSE ME RIGHT AWAY, HUH?
...GEEZ, WHY SO HIGH-AND-MIGHTY ALL OF A SUDDEN!?
HAVEN'T WE BEEN THROUGH THIS ALREADY? I'LL BE ON YOUR TAIL, 24/7.
'CAUSE IT'D BE TROUBLE-SOME FOR ME IF YOU RUN AWAY OR GET KILLED WHEN I'M NOT LOOKING!
BULLETINS
...OKAY, BUT STILL, YOU REALLY SHOULDN'T TRESPASS! HURRY UP AND GO!
THE TEACHERS ARE STARTING TO MAKE A FUSS ABOUT THERE BEING AN INTRUDER!
HUH~? THAT WASN'T ME!
AND YOU'RE EVEN INVOLVED IN CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES LIKE HACKING ...

HACKERS AREN'T CRIMINALS!
Here in Gaia, hackers are...
magicians.
OH HO, LOOK WHO WE HAVE HERE...

THANKS FOR THAT YESTER-DAY...
WE'RE HERE TO SEE YOU ...
It's those two from yesterday... why now?

WHOA!
IDIOT! DON'T GET YOURSELF MIXED UP IN THESE UN-NECESSARY THINGS!
TALK ABOUT THAT LATER! FIRST, YOU NEED TO GET OUT OF HERE! YOU CAN'T LOG OUT ON CAMPUS GROUNDS, SO—
HEY... HEY! WHAT'S UP WITH THOSE GUYS?
WHY ARE THEY HERE!?
D-DID THEY COME FOR REVENGE...!?
WELL, I HELPED OUT A GIRL THEY WERE HITTING ON YESTERDAY... SO MAYBE THEY'RE HOLDING A GRUDGE...
WHAT!?

ARE YOU STUPID? I'LL BE FINE NO MATTER WHAT THEY DO TO ME!
YOU'RE THE ONE WITH THE BIGGER PROBLEM HERE!
THE ENEMY IS JUST THOSE TWO, RIGHT?
YEAH!
YOU MIGHT DIE...
IF YOU GET HIT BY THAT ILLEGAL PROGRAM, YOU...
WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO?
ALRIGHTY THEN, LURE THEM TO SOME PLACE WITH NO ONE AROUND!

I'LL DO SOMETHING ABOUT SMALL FRY LIKE THA—

to be CONTINUED

OZ —オズ—
岩井恭平 & 刻夜セイゴ

VOLUME ONE CHAPTER THREE

Lookitdat! And yet another chapter of Dorothy. You wouldn't leave her all alone by herself in the morning, would you? I would probably call in sick to work. Dohoho. Ahem. Anyway, Yuuri's weaksauce program really is silver *shoes* and not silver *boots*, whoops! I'll have that corrected in the earlier chapters when I release the volume batch, which includes the omake chapter, along with a mysterious voice recording (not really) plus the secret behind Yuuri's aching body..

Thanks to Eques for cleaning the chapter and to Umeboshi for proofreading as usual.

Oh, right, so the new website is up, if you haven't been by lately. There is now a comment box, by popular demand (more like .. two people), so you can leave some words of encouragement or something. Translating is fun, but it can also be tiring. And it's always time-consuming. Let's see how much I can put out while in graduate school, shall we?

Ratman continues to be worked on. Let's cheer on Key-kun for figuring out the Pen Tool in Photoshop. Redraws everywhere, but he has no fear! I think. Either way, stay tuned, boys and girls.

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Update your bookmarks! New website now online! HTTP://MIXINI.CO.CC/

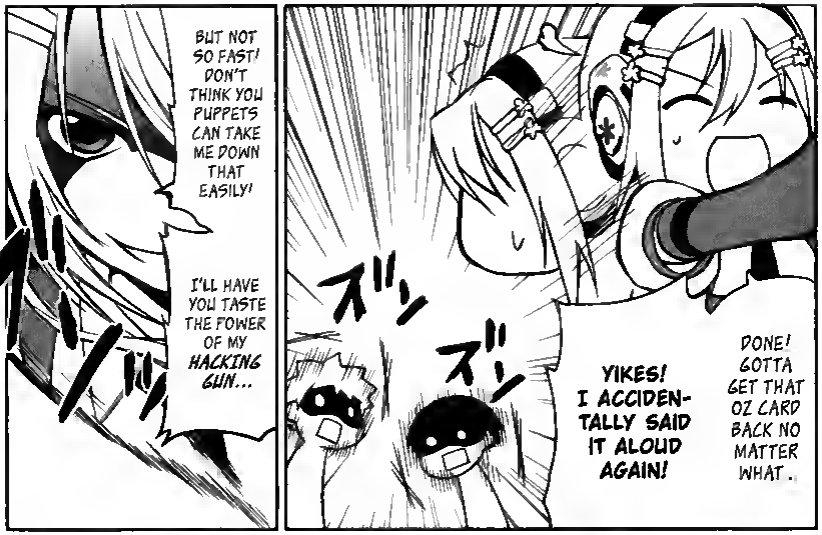
Like it? Buy it! Support the original authors while proving to the world that these so-called "pirates" on the Internet actually *buy* stuff. Shocking.

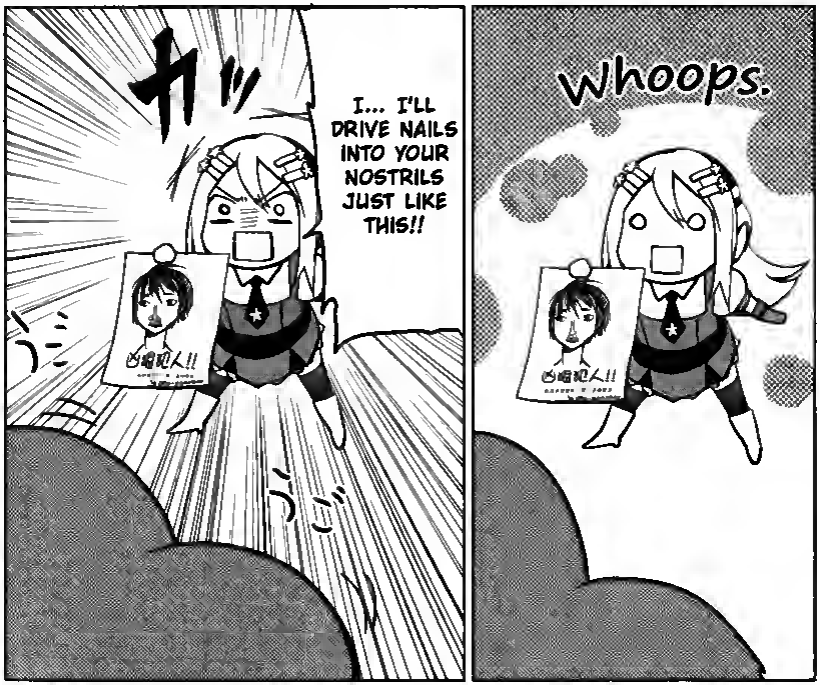
Drop by #MIXINI @ IRC.IRCHIGHWAY.NET whenever~

Dorothy, then.

DOUBLE SETBACK...
OH SHOOT! HE TOOK IT!
SETBACK...
OH SHOOT! I DROPPED IT! I LOOSENED MY GRIP FOR A SECOND...
...OKAY! I GUESS I'LL HAVE TO GO WITH POSTERS...
NOOOO... I LOST HIM... NOW WHAT DO I DO...
PASTE PASTE
VICIOUS CRIMINAL!!
If spotted, please dial this number!
090-XOOXOOX

Dorothy, then. (2)


BUT NOT SO FAST! DON'T THINK YOU PUPPETS CAN TAKE ME DOWN THAT EASILY!
I'LL HAVE YOU TASTE THE FOWER OF MY HACKING GUN...
ズン
ズン
YIKES! I ACCIDENTALLY SAID IT ALOUD AGAIN!
DONE! GOTTA GET THAT OZ CARD BACK NO MATTER WHAT.



Haru-haru, then.

Dorothy, now.

WHAA? WHAT'S THIS ABOUT!?
AHA! FOUND YOU! SO THERE YOU WERE! JERK, GIVE IT BACK! GIVE ME MY CARD BACK!
ICIOUS CRIMINAL!!
if spotted, please dial this number
HM?
DANGIT... I PUT UP FOSTER'S ALL OVER THE PLACE, BUT IT'S COMPLETELY INEFFECTIVE!
LOST THE CARD, AND CHASED DOWN BY PUPPETS WHAT AN AWFUL DAY...
AND DOWN HE FALLS.
WAAA
Erm...
Am I going to break?
The last thing I see is this...
Nooo...
The current "me" might die...
MY CARD—!!
Inner anguish of the model #092 patrol robot

SPECIAL THANKS AOI MITSURUGI

事情的真相

What really happened...

I DON'T KNOW IF I CAN FALL ASLEEP LIKE THIS SPENDING THE NIGHT OUTDOORS...
Since I can't log out to the real world I have no choice but to spend the night in GAIA.
WHAT!? WHY ARE YOU SO WEAK?

OZ —オズ—
岩井恭平 & 刻夜セイゴ

VOLUME ONE BATCH RELEASE

Mraaaaaa. Here it is. The first volume of *Oz*. Lots of touch-ups here and there. Most of them are fairly subtle. Hopefully I caught everything. If I didn't... welp. Whether I go back to fix things will depend on what I feel like at the time (which is also how most other decisions are made here).

A special hat tip to those who told me they were waiting for the batch to read chapter three. I found that oddly encouraging, though I'm not too sure why. And of course, thanks to the usual suspects (Eques, Heidenrex, Umeboshi) for their indispensable assistance. Oh, and I certainly can't forget the hipster duo Ninjastik & Kiiragi for redrawing the color spread from way back.

Since I didn't feel like making another gag panel, you guys get a picture of my old apartment instead. Yes, "Mixini Studios" is really nothing more than a cheap and outdated laptop perched atop a homemade LEGO dock. Y'all weren't expecting some fancy office space, were you?

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